NEW MEMBER

Dr. C. O. Karunakaran (*Superintendent, Public Health Laboratory*) took the oath and signed the rolls.

Legislative Business—(*contd.*)

THE TRAVANCORE CHILDREN BILL—(*contd.*)

DR. B. K. PILLAI (*co-opted*): Yesterday I was opposing the amendment to the second clause of the Children Bill on the ground that such caning is prevalent in England and other western countries also. Further it has been found that in practice; some sort of fear in the case of children who are not amenable to reason is absolutely necessary. And under this section, the caning is calculated to enable the Court to give a punishment in lieu of fine. Fining, as everybody knows, is the slightest punishment under the Criminal law, and when a boy offender refused to pay a fine, it will be necessary to give him at least a caning. On all these grounds I oppose the amendment.

MR. K. G. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI: I would like to add a word or two to the discussion. Objection to caning has been raised on two specific grounds. These grounds are based one on psychology and another on sentiment. So far as the question based on psychology is concerned, I must readily concede that I am not a psychologist myself and therefore must take lessons from others who seem to know the subject. We have been told by Dr. B. K. Pillai who has had first hand training in England that psychologists do not agree that caning is unnecessary. I accept his opinion.

With regard to this question of sentiment, there is no doubt that caning is some what brutal. I do not deny the fact. But I am appealing to the experience of the honourable members of this House. I appeal to them to tell me what their experience is in the matter.

A large majority of members of this House must have dealt with children of their own or other peoples'. If they will place their hands on their hearts and rise up and oppose with their own voice the caning of children under all circumstances, the whole object of that section goes. Sir, on the other hand, I believe, as a man verging on elderliness myself, that caning of children is sometimes necessary and that there is very great truth in the dictum "spare the rod and spoil the child."

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: May I know, could the caning rod have a diameter of half an inch? Will he cane his own child?

MR. K. G. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI: If that is all which is agitating my friend he may come to my house this evening when I will give a demonstration on my child with a rod of that diameter for the sake of convincing my friend about the harmless nature of caning (*laughter.*)

PRESIDENT: Order, order. Such domestic details are fit subjects of conversation outside the precincts of this House.

MR. K. G. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI: I am sorry, Sir. So that I am asking for the considered opinion of this House from their own practical experience of every day life whether they would or would not cane a child "under any circumstances," note the stress of the last words. If

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly